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SING OUT!

Volume 3, Number 12
November 1953 25¢



WOODY GUTHRIE

McCarthy vs McCarthy

Walter Lowenfels, Philadelphia people's poet who is presently under indictment for "violation" of the Smith Act, wrote the following recently as his answer to McCarthyism. The tune is "No Irish Need Apply" which you can find in **LIFT EVERY VOICE** (page 70). As it stands, of course, it is not a complete song --and we would be happy to receive additional verses to fill it out.

O, My name is Joe McCarthy,
But I'm not the man you think,
I dig ditches for a living
and I never was a fink;
I dig ditches for a living,
I'm as dirty as can be,
But I never smeared a person
Like that Senator smeared me.

-Chorus-

Sure, McCarthy is my monicker,
McCarthy is my name,
But me and the Senator
are surely not the same.
I am proud of the McCarthys,
but we are not to blame,
It's that feller down in Washington
that's brought us all to shame.

ANNIVERSARY COMING UP

On Page 13 of this issue you will see a blank for greetings to **SING OUT** on the occasion of the third anniversary of this publication. The December Issue will be an expanded, special edition of **SING OUT** to celebrate this third birthday. Among the special features of this issue will be even more songs than usual, a number of important articles, including a report

on the recent World Youth Festival in Bucharest, a complete three-year index of songs and articles in **SING OUT**, and, we hope, many greetings from individuals and groups throughout the world.

Of course, we want greetings from you, your friends and your organizations. Just try to evaluate for a moment the worth of the songs in **SING OUT** over the past three years and then decide how important it is to you to keep **SING OUT** alive and expanding for the next three years.

We want more than your contribution and greeting, however. Take this opportunity to let us know what you think of **SING OUT**, the songs, the articles, the art work, the general appearance, and any other aspects of this magazine which you think can be improved. With your help and participation in this way, through both your greetings and suggestions, we can make **SING OUT** a better magazine than ever.

Sing Out

Volume 3
Number 12

November
1953

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NEW POEMS FOR THE ROSENBERGS

"I Call To You Across The Continent" -- Poems and Songs by Edith Segal for Morton Sobell in Alcatraz and to the memory of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. 24 pp., 25¢. A People's Artists publication.

by Alexander Walgreen

This new collection of songs and poems by Edith Segal helps to keep alive and gives new inspiration to the continuing struggle for justice for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in its most direct form -- by fighting for the freedom of Morton Sobell, co-defendant with the Rosenbergs, who was sentenced to thirty years in Alcatraz.

Most of the poems in the collection were written shortly after the Rosenbergs were murdered -- and the imagery is full of the shock of cruel and unnatural death. If we were to try to abstract one main theme from this collection, it would be the theme of **Justice**. Miss Segal talks directly to the executioners with bitterness and an underlying confidence that history and the people will reverse the hysterical frame-up verdicts. To the Supreme Court she says:

"We turn from you, oh hypocritical crew,
to seek the truth among our own,
the People,
who will convene within these walls
and judge with wisdom drawn from
better days."

There are weaknesses in many of the poems. Some of the imagery appears to be hastily conceived. Some of the lines are not as finished as they could be. But these are minor criticisms in poems which breathe life and reality and hope and the power of human emotion. Certainly, no American writer has made a finer contribution to this struggle.

NEW ADDRESS

One of the reasons for this issue of **SING OUT** appearing later in the month than we would like is because People's Artists has moved its offices and headquarters. The new address is 124 West 21st St., New York, 11, N. Y. (New phone: WA 9-3907). You will be hearing more in the near future, particularly if you live in New York, about a new and expanded program of People's Artists activities including workshops, classes, small concerts, forums and discussions.

Speaking of moving: If **YOU** change your address, please notify us promptly. Under our present mailing privileges, your magazine is not forwarded to you by the Post-Office. We must change your address in our files for you to keep receiving **SING OUT**.

ON THE COVER

Woody Guthrie, Oklahoma Dust Bowl balladeer, whose songs have inspired the people's struggles for many years. (See Pages 8 and 9.)

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SONGS

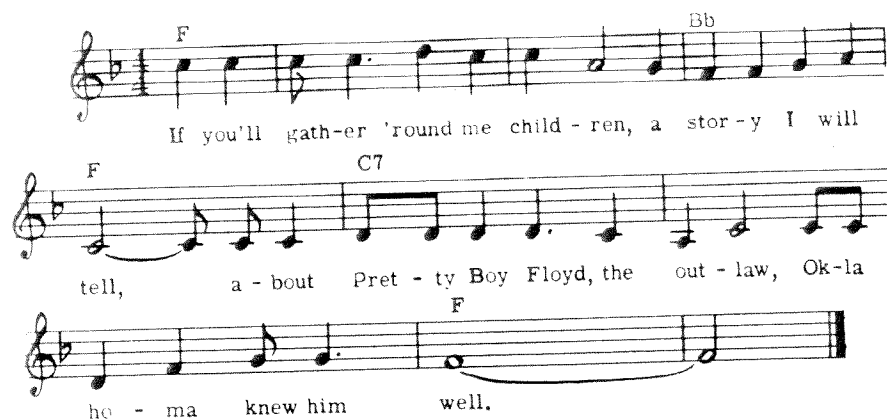
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252 Pretty Boy Floyd

Words and Music by Woody Guthrie



2. It was in the town of Shawnee,
It was Saturday afternoon;
His wife beside him in the wagon
As into town they rode.
3. There a deputy sheriff approached
him,
In a manner rather rude,
Using vulgar words of language
And his wife she overheard.
4. Pretty Boy grabbed a log chain,
And the deputy grabbed a gun,
And in the fight that followed,
He laid that deputy down.
5. He took to the trees and timbers,
And he lived a life of shame,
Every crime in Oklahoma
Was added to his name.
6. Yes he took to the trees and timbers
On that Canadian River's shore,
And Pretty Boy found a welcome
At a many a farmer's door.
7. There's many a starving farmer,
The same old story told,
How this outlaw paid their mortgage
And saved their little home.
8. Others tell you 'bout a stranger
That come to beg a meal,
And underneath his napkin
Left a thousand dollar bill.
9. It was in Oklahoma City
It was on a Christmas Day,
There come a whole car load of
groceries
With a letter that did say:
10. You say that I'm an outlaw,
You say that I'm a thief;
Here's a Christmas dinner
For the families on relief.
11. Now as through this world I ramble
I see lots of funny men,
Some will rob you with a six-gun,
And some with a fountain pen.
12. But as through your life you travel,
As through your life you roam;
You won't never see an outlaw
Drive a family from their home.

254 March of the Common Men

Words and Music by
Bob and Adrienne Claiborne

This song, which was written in 1943, appeared originally in the People's Songs Bulletin. It is re-printed here in response to many requests.

A D A

Out of the years of be - tray - al and sor - row,

A B7 E7

out of the night toward the fire of the day;

A D A

out of the past toward the shin - ing to-mor - rows,

A D A E7 A

in - to the fu - ture we march to - day.

F#m F#m7 Bm C#7

Through all the storms, through the bleak bit - ter weath - er,

F#m F#m7 B7 E7

though from our search - ing we're wea - ry and sore,

A D A

now toward the sun - light we trav - el to - geth - er;

A D A G7 A

in - to the fu - ture we march once more,

Our Country Sings for Peace Through "Lift Every Voice!"

LIFT EVERY VOICE -- the 2nd People's Songbook; Edited by Irwin Silber; Associate Editors: Leon Bibb, Donald Langlos, Al Moss, Earl Robinson, Betty Sanders, Pete Seeger, Jerry Silverman; with a foreword by Paul Robeson; illustrated by Jim Lee; 96 pages; \$1.25; A People's Artists Publication.

by Ernie Lieberman

About 300 years ago the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock in search of a land free from religious and political persecution. One of their prized possessions was a collection of songs. *

"Our soul is as a bird escaping
free
From out the intangling fowler's
snare. . ."

Reading through **LIFT EVERY VOICE**, singing its songs with groups of people, "the fowler's snare" of political terror and war hysteria "is broke, and we escaped are "into the indomitable creativity of the people. But our "escape" is not forgetfulness. These songs were not written to forget, but to remember and inspire.

A songbook can be many things. The editors have the power -- and the necessity -- of selecting the few songs that will make up a collection. The editors can try to say everything or nothing, include poor songs to make a point or eliminate all songs that do not meet exacting aesthetic requirements. The editors of **LIFT EVERY VOICE** say their purpose is "to help give voice to the demand for peace." Fortunately they conceive the need for peace as rooted in all of life. While there is a large section -- 14 songs -- under the

heading "Study War No More," the scope of the book's 76 songs range from the union song, "Miner's Life-guard," to the Indonesian lullaby, "Suliram," to the anti-Jim Crow, "Now, Right Now." The endless variety gives each song an extra poignancy, an extra importance, makes clear the links between action for peace and all desires and accomplishments of the people.

Inseparable from the variety of subject is the variety of form, and it is a musically enriching experience to travel from the stirring Shostakovich "Song for Peace" to the Chinese "Lighthouse" (a song of the youth of China), and then to the lilting, playful "Cuckoo" (a Polish folk song). But variety does not end here. I feel that the editors have struck a careful balance between songs for group singing and those that challenge an artist to perform for audiences. I cannot stress the importance of this dual nature of singing too much -- both in editing a songbook and, in all phases of singing. Speaking as a singer, I feel this book can serve as a large scale model in preparing a program of songs for an audience.

The arrangements of the songs are, on the whole, in harmony with the nature of the songs. (I don't know what higher compliment I could pay.) There is the inevitable conflict between those who will feel they are too simple and those who won't be able to play them at all. My feeling has always been to keep arrangements in a book for wide usage as simple as possible while indicating the harmonic and rhythmic nature of the songs. This would enable untrained people to play the songs while giving the trained musician an understanding of the songs on which to base an arrangement that might be more complicated. One weakness of

(Continued on Page 12)

* Geneva Psalter